

## **2017 Utah Original Writing Competition Judges**

**NOVEL: Matthew Batt** is the author of *Sugarhouse*, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in 2012, and currently he's working on a novel set in Milwaukee in the 80s. He's the recipient of grants from the Aspen Writers Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. He's an associate professor of English at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota, where he lives with his family.

**CREATIVE NONFICTION BOOK: Rebecca Rule**, recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from New England College, has been collecting and telling stories of New Hampshire and New England for more than 25 years. Her latest book is *Sixty Years of Cuttin' the Cheese: Joel Sherburne and Calef's Famous Country Store*. Other books include *N is for New Hampshire*, an ABC book with photographs by Scott Snyder; *The Iciest, Diciest, Scariest Sled Ride Ever!*; and *Live Free and Eat Pie: A Storyteller's Guide to New Hampshire*. Her short-story collection *The Best Revenge* was named Outstanding Work of Fiction by the NH Writers Project and listed as one of five "Essential NH Books" by New Hampshire Magazine.

**BOOK-LENGTH COLLECTION OF STORIES: Becky Bradway** is the author of the craft book *Creating Nonfiction* and the collection of literary essays *Pink Houses and Family Taverns*. Her short fiction and creative nonfiction works have appeared in *E: The Environmental Journal*, *Ninth Letter*, *DoubleTake*, *Creative Nonfiction*, *Post Road*, *Antioch Review*, and *Hotel Amerika*, among others. Her fiction has received honorary mentions in *The Best American Short Stories*. She attended Columbia University, holds a doctorate from Illinois State University, and now teaches in the MFA program in creative writing at Wilkes University. Her current project is a creative biography about the writers Vachel Lindsay and Sara Teasdale. She lives in Denver with her husband Doug Hesse and a couple of dogs.

**YOUNG ADULT BOOK: Elizabeth Briggs** is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the Future Shock trilogy and the Chasing the Dream series. She graduated from UCLA with a degree in sociology and has worked for an international law firm, mentored teens in writing, and volunteered with dog-rescue groups. Now she's a full-time geek who lives in Los Angeles with her husband and a pack of fluffy dogs. Find her online at [www.elizabethbriggs.net](http://www.elizabethbriggs.net).

**POETRY: Cole Swensen** is the author of 17 collections of poetry, most recently *On Walking On* and a collection of critical essays, *Noise That Stays Noise*. Her work has won the Iowa Poetry Prize, the San Francisco State Poetry Center Book Award, and the National Poetry Series, and has also been a finalist for the National Book Award and twice for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award. With David St. John, she co-edited the 2009 Norton Anthology *American Hybrid*, and she is the founder and editor of the small press La Presse. Also a translator, she has won the PEN USA Award in literary translation. She divides her time between Paris and Providence, Rhode Island, where she teaches at Brown University.

## **2017 Utah Original Writing Competition Judges**

**SHORT STORY: Craig Holden** received his MFA in fiction from the University of Montana in 1986 and worked for two literary agencies in New York City, eventually becoming a film-rights agent himself. His first novel, *The River Sorrow*, sold in 1993 to Delacorte Press, and was subsequently translated into a dozen languages. His third novel, *Four Corners of Night*, received the Great Lakes Book Award for fiction in 1999 and hit the *USA Today* bestseller list. Other novels include *The Last Sanctuary*, *The Jazz Bird*, and *The Narcissist's Daughter*. His sixth novel, *Matala*, was published by Simon & Schuster in 2008 and is currently under option for television. He has taught at the University of Toledo, the University of Michigan, and New Mexico State University. He is currently finishing his seventh novel.

**CREATIVE NONFICTION ESSAY: Michael Martone's** most recent books are *Winesburg, Indiana*, *Four for a Quarter*, *Not Normal*, *Illinois: Peculiar Fiction from the Flyover*, *Racing in Place: Collages, Fragments, Postcards, Ruins*, and *Double-wide*, his collected early stories. His book of essays, *The Flatness and Other Landscapes*, won the AWP Award for Nonfiction. With Lex Williford, he edited *The Scribner Anthology of Contemporary Short Fiction* and *The Scribner Anthology of Contemporary Creative Nonfiction*. Martone is the author of five other books of short fiction, and his stories and essays have appeared in *Harper's*, *Esquire*, *Story*, *Antaeus*, *North American Review*, *Benzene*, *Epoch*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Iowa Review*, *Third Coast*, *Shenandoah*, *Bomb*, and other magazines. Martone was born and grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He holds the MA from The Writing Seminars of The Johns Hopkins University. Martone is currently a professor at the University of Alabama, and he has been a faculty member of the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College since 1988.